



## Joint Antelope Valley Authority

It would be difficult for the three separate governing bodies to independently address all the issues and detailed decisions on a six to 10-year set of interrelated projects in a timely fashion. To help provide an efficient and coordinating governing structure, the three Partners designed the Joint Antelope Valley Authority (JAVA) in March of this year.

Created by a written Interlocal Agreement, JAVA is an administrative governmental entity created to help disseminate Antelope Valley Study information to the public and elected officials, complete final project design, secure project funding from private individuals, corporations, foundations and different levels of government and construct the approved Phase 1 Projects.

A three member administrative board governs JAVA, with each Partner appointing a board member. The administrative board members include Glenn Johnson, General Manager of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Scott Lewis, Interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Allan Abbott, City Public Works Director. The acting Project Manager for JAVA is Roger Figard, who is also the City Engineer.

Representatives of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District, State of Nebraska Department

of Administrative Services, Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, and Nebraska Military Department are invited to participate at meetings of JAVA as ex-officio nonvoting members. All public accountability and open meeting rules apply to JAVA.

If the necessary governmental approvals are secured this fall, JAVA would begin a first year work plan. These proposed activities include: design and pre-construction activities for the Phase 1 Projects, preparation of the necessary property appraisals, acquisition and relocation assistance programs, voluntary acquisition, and finalizing the funding and financing package with the State of Nebraska and other funding sources. A citizen committee will also be formed to provide input and advice to JAVA and the three Partners.

If the first year activities are successful, the three Partners would approve a supplemental Interlocal Agreement. Subsequent years (five to nine years) activities would include: complete design, funding, property acquisition, relocation assistance programs, construction and implementation of the Phase 1 Projects.

The three Partners believe JAVA offers the best joint decision-making and accountability model to insure successful project review and implementation within financial constraints,

while allowing each Partner to reserve all its authorization, appropriation, bonding and taxing powers.

JAVA has no authority to levy taxes or to bond the credit or revenues of any Partner. Each year, the Administrative Board of JAVA will prepare and distribute to each Partner a recommended funding amount needed from each Partner. In turn, each Partner's governing body retains control over its own annual budget processes based upon legal and fiscal constraints, while remaining responsive to ever changing situations, shifts in public interest, and emergencies.

After the completion of a specific project, JAVA will transfer all improvements and real estate to the appropriate individual Partner for ongoing operation and maintenance.

One of the primary benefits of coordinating and carrying out an interrelated and multi-jurisdictional set of projects over a multi-year time frame is that each of the Antelope Valley Partners contributes a relatively small portion of the overall Phase 1 Project investment of funds, assets and administrative services, and in return creates relatively high public benefits. In order to create the desirable net public benefit, each governmental Partner will provide its share of the funds, assets and administrative services over the Phase 1 time frame based upon an agreed budget.

## Reports Available for Review and Comment:

Antelope Valley Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
Federal Highway Administration, June, 2000 (DEIS)

Antelope Creek Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment,  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, June, 2000 (Feasibility Report)

Assessment of Effect to NRHP and NRHP-Eligible Sites and Properties in the  
Antelope Valley Study Area, Antelope Valley Study Team,  
June 2000 (Assessment of Effect)

These reports and all other Antelope Valley Study reports are available at City Libraries as well as the Lincoln Planning Department and City Council Clerk's offices at 555 South 10th Street. The DEIS, Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment and Assessment of Effects Report can be seen at the website [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/pworks/index.htm](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/pworks/index.htm)

The Antelope Valley Study has published six newsletters beginning in January, 1996 through March, 1999. There will be continued publications as the process moves forward to keep you up to date. If you would like to receive a newsletter, please contact Antelope Valley Study Team, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68508, phone (402) 474-6311.

## Acknowledgements

Antelope Valley Partners wish to thank the Lincoln-Journal Star for the fine series of articles published January 10-13, 1999.

Many ideas and concepts were used to help prepare this publication.

Antelope Valley Partners also would like to thank the many people and organizations for their assistance in preparing the Antelope Valley Study supplement.

For further questions or comments, please contact: Antelope Valley Study Team, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 111, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, Phone (402) 474-6311,